

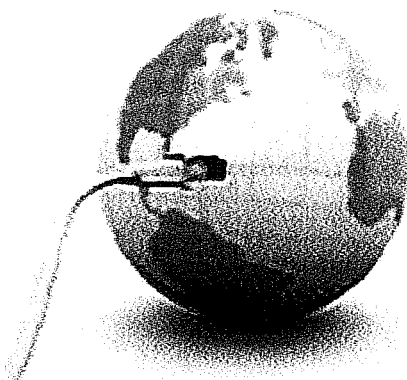
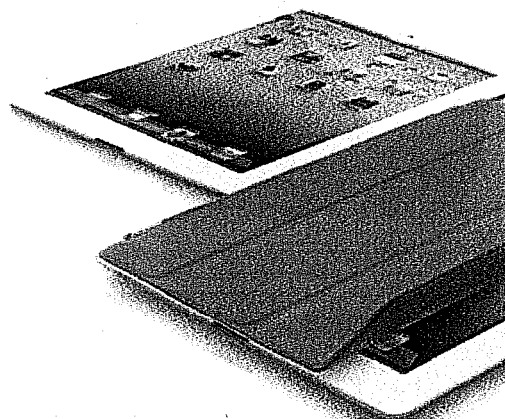
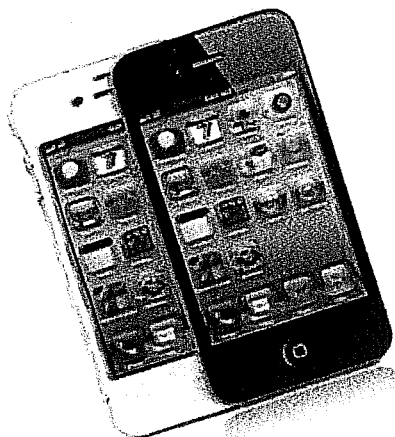
To help Congress usher in the summer solstice, the Office of Commercial Affairs (OCA) of the Royal Thai Embassy has planned two gala receptions, one for the Senate on Tuesday, June 21, and another for the House a day later. OCA Minister (Commercial) Kessiri Siripakorn asked Members of the House and Senate and senior congressional staff to save the dates. Official invitations will be distributed in early June. The Senate reception June 21 will be held in Room SVC 201 on the Senate side of the Capitol Visitors Center. The House event Wednesday, June 22 will take place in B-340 of the Rayburn House Office Building. "Thailand has many friends on Capitol Hill, and it is always a pleasure to meet with them informally," Minister Kessiri said. The receptions will occur shortly before Congress adjourns for the July 4th recess.

## Thai Internet Use Jumps 27 Percent in 2010, 20 Million Spurred on by Smartphones, Broadband

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Internet users in Thailand topped 20 million in 2010, up 27 percent over 2009, spurred on by proliferation of smartphones and tablets coupled with an expanding broadband network, the Bangkok Post reported May 23rd. Half of the daily access to Web sites in Thailand came from Internet-enabled mobile device, the Thai Internet Innovation Research Center said, with 200,000 Apple iPhones and 45,000 iPads in use.



## Thai Airways Endorses Plan To Create Budget Airline For Access to ASEAN Markets

(May 21, 2011) Thai Airways International's board has endorsed a plan to create a low-cost airline, Thai Wings, which will compete directly with AirAsia. Thai Wings is expected to launch commercial service early next year to domestic and regional routes within two or three hours from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. The proposed airline would initially operate seven narrow-body jetliners, including five Boeing B737-400s now in Thai Airway's fleet. It expects to lease two more 737-400s to complete the fleet, with four more being added in its third year. Thailand, as the gateway to Southeast Asia markets, will be able to provide more convenient, economical access to other markets of the region for U.S. businesses that choose Thailand as it base of operation in the ASEAN market. (Based on an article in the Bangkok Post.)



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